

WILLIAM DENISON LYMAN

William Denison Lyman died June 21, 1920, at Walla Walla, Washington. He was born at Portland, Oregon, December 1, 1852, the son of Horace and Mary Denison Lyman, California pioneers of 1848. He received his early education at the Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon, and later attended Williams College, where he was graduated in 1877. In this same year he began teaching history and literature at the Pacific University and there continued until 1886. After a short interval he went in 1889 to Walla Walla, where he began his long tenure of service as the head of the department of history of Whitman College, which continued until his death. On June 15, 1882, he married Mattie Clark of Vancouver, Washington, who, with four children survived him.

Dr. Lyman was well known as a historian, lecturer and publicist. He was a leading advocate of river and harbor improvements, and also was interested in mountain climbing and amateur photography. His published works include the "History of Walla Walla County," 1901; "History of Snohomish and Skagit Counties," 1906; and "The Columbia River," 1909. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in April 1902. He contributed to the Proceedings of the Society three papers: "The Painted Rocks of Lake Chelan" in October 1902; "Myths and Superstitions of the Oregon Indians" in April 1904; and "Indian Myths of the Northwest" in October 1915.

C. S. B.

FRANKLIN BOWDITCH DEXTER

In the death of Franklin Bowditch Dexter on the 13th of August last, this Society lost a devoted member and a long-time faithful officer. Mr. Dexter was born in Fairhaven, Mass., September 11, 1842, the son of Rodolphus W. and Mary H. (Taber) Dexter. He received his A. B. at Yale in 1861, the youngest but one in his class, and his A. M. in 1864. In 1902 the

university conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. He was married in 1880 to Theodosia M. Wheeler of New Haven who survives him with one daughter.

Almost immediately after graduation he became connected with the university, as assistant in instruction in the Sheffield Scientific School, tutor in college and assistant and cataloguer in the library. In 1869, he became assistant librarian and so remained until his retirement from active work in 1912. In this capacity his service was of great value, especially in instituting and developing the card catalogue. He was Secretary of the university from 1870 to 1899 and Larned Professor of American History from 1877 to 1888. Mr. Dexter's official positions led naturally to his most important published work, as in a way official historian of the university, a line of work especially attractive to him and for which he was especially fitted. The first volume of his "Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College with Annals of the College" appeared in 1885, and the work was completed by the publication of the sixth volume in 1912, bringing the record down to 1815. To this work should be added as an even more important contribution to New England history his "Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles" in three volumes, 1901, followed in 1916 by "The Itineraries and Correspondence of Ezra Stiles" in one volume. Both these undertakings, but especially the editions of President Stiles's writings, display a most minute and extensive knowledge of historical details, of life and customs, and of facts of family and general interest, and they make clear the characteristics of Mr. Dexter's work—thorough investigation, unwearying industry and strict accuracy. These traits are to be found in all his other numerous contributions to Yale history and in his edition of the New Haven Town Records, 1649-84, in two volumes, 1917-18.

Mr. Dexter was elected a member of this Society in 1879 and at the time of his death was its senior member. He was a member of the Council from 1885 to 1897 and Secretary for Foreign Correspondence from 1897 to 1912. He made many contributions to the Proceedings of the Society, including the following:

History of Connecticut in the Names of her Towns, 1885.

Estimates of Population in American Colonies, 1887.

Selections from Letters Received by David Daggett, 1887.

Social Distinctions at Harvard and Yale before the Revolution, 1894.

Historical Study of the Presidency in Yale College, 1898.

Early Private Libraries in New England, 1907.

Student Life in Yale College under President Dwight, 1918.

In 1909, Mr. Dexter presented \$200 to the Society for the purchase of certain bibliographical works, and in 1919 he donated to the library his collection of Yale Class Records.

Besides the above named books and papers, Mr. Dexter was the author of a large number of papers and articles read at the meetings of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, of which he was one of the most active members, or on other occasions. In 1918 he collected some twenty-four of these in a privately published volume. The earliest of these bears the date of 1868 and the latest of 1917. They are especially valuable for the light they throw on private life in the town and college of the past.

It is impossible for one who knew Mr. Dexter well to close a sketch of his life and work without a word upon the personal side, for even more characteristic of the man to those who were his friends than his scholarly traits were his "genius for friendship," his unflinching kindness and his generous and appreciative regard for others.

G. B. A.

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